

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 9 (Canceled).

10 (Currently amended). A method comprising:

providing a cannula ~~as defined in claim 5~~ sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal region, an opening in the side wall, the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and having a distal terminus, and a surface on the distal region of the cannula spaced, at least in part, distally of the distal terminus of the opening to anchor the distal region in cortical bone;

inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone.

11 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

12 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 10, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

13 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 12 and further including conveying a material into the cavity.

14 to 16 (Canceled)

17 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

providing a cannula ~~as defined in claim 6~~ sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal region, a distal opening in the distal region communicating with the bore to accommodate passage of a guide pin, and an opening in the side wall extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis;

inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone.

18 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

19 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

20 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 19, and further including conveying a material into the cavity.

21 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

providing a cannula ~~as defined in claim 7~~ sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal end, and an opening in the side wall, the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and including a distal terminus, the bore terminating at the distal terminus;

inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone.

22 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 21, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

23 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 21, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

24 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 23, and further including conveying a material into the cavity.